

# SECONDARY INDUSTRIES.

## A PRELIMINARY REVIEW.

### A SATISFACTORY ADVANCE.

A preliminary review of the manufactories and works of South Australia for the year ended June 30, by the Government Statist (Mr. W. L. Johnston), shows a very satisfactory advance over the previous year. Individually, he says, a number of industries either reported decreased activity or very slight progress. Among such were tanneries, bark mills, boots and shoes, clothing generally, and brushware. On the other hand, good progress was noticed in many industries, such as smelting, foods and drinks, furniture, and upholstery, drugs and fertilisers, railways and tramways, soap and candles, bricks and tiles, and glass bottles.

Although an increase was noticed in the number of hands employed of 1,078, and wages and salaries paid (excluding working proprietors, £423,260, and output value of work done, £2,492,998), the margin accruing to the proprietors to meet miscellaneous expenses and profit was less than that of the previous year, the percentage being 13.77 per cent. against 15.01 per cent. A similar experience was noted in New South Wales.

The number of establishments dealt with was 1,711, an increase of 13. The hands employed were 38,353, an increase of 1,078. Classified in sexes, the hands employed compared as follows:—Males, 31,238 (increase, 977); females, 7,115 (increase, 101).

Last year, for the first time, information was collected as to the ages of the employees as follow:—

	Males.	Females.
Under 16 years . . . . .	1,080	839
16 years and under 21 years . . . . .	4,071	2,537
21 years and over . . . . .	26,087	3,739

Total, all hands . . . . . 31,238 7,115  
In five years the hands employed had increased by 7,804 males and 1,107 females—a total of 8,911.

The gross horse-power used during the year was reported to be 129,192, an increase of 25,287. The increase was the result of heavy additions to the electric light and power works. The chief kinds were:—Steam, 87,940; increase of 19,835; electric, 28,818; increase, 6,192.

Expenditure.—Materials used or operated upon.—The collection for 1924-25 of these details was made more extensively than in former years, and it was more than possible that it was not fully comparable with previous years. Hitherto the value was collected in one item, "Materials used and operated upon." This was supposed to include the value of all non-returnable containers, water used, and tools replaced, but whilst it was known that non-returnable containers and water used were probably included, it was doubtful about tools replaced, &c. The total for 1924-25 was made up as follows:—Water used, £7,262 per cent.; tools replaced, £268,541; non-returnable containers, £591,649; all other material used or operated upon, £18,549,702; total, £19,447,154; or an increase of £1,983,998. This line of expenditure was £6,156,457 greater than five years ago.

The value of the fuel used totalled £1,117,640, an increase of £109,083. The following quantities were reported as used in works:—Coal, 321,446 tons; wood, 93,492 tons.

Salaries and Wages.—At a conference of Australian statisticians held in 1924 it was agreed that where proprietors worked in the industry, doing work which otherwise would be done by employees, such masters were asked to show value as salary for such services equivalent to what would have to be paid if an employee were engaged. For 1924-25 there were 1,407 working proprietors, and salaries and wages on account of these were returned at £386,775, an average of £275. It should be remembered that in very many cases proprietors did not put their full time in the works section of their business. The salaries and wages paid to all employees, excluding working proprietors, was £7,150,658, an increase of £423,260. This represents an average per employee of £193 10/10. Males received £6,504,470, averaging £217 14/1, and females £646,188, averaging £91 8/6. Ignoring in the comparison the amount on account of working proprietors already referred to, it was noted that salaries and wages paid to employees increased during the five years by £3,162,596, equal to an increase of £55 5/5 for males and £27 4/6 for females, and for males and females combined of £51 18/4.

The value of the year's production had been returned at £32,143,993, an increase of £2,492,998. The output had increased in the five years by £11,689,454. The increase for the year was fairly general, but greatest in class V., metal works, £9,869,486, which included the smelting works; class VI., foods and drinks, £7,734,066; class XI., vehicles, &c., £2,780,246; class XIV., drugs, chemicals, &c., £1,045,106; and class XVII., heat, light, and energy, £1,357,405.

Value of Production.—This represented the value added to material used by the process of manufacture or treatment. Statistically this value represented the sum which became available annually for distribution among those concerned in the industry i.e., workers of all grades, the proprietors, landlords, debenture holders, and mortgagees, &c. For the year this value was estimated to be £11,579,199 an increase of £399,917. The five years' increase was £4,654,419.

The value of machinery and plant was £7,529,854, an increase of £600,033, and for the five years an increase of £3,598,292. The value of the land and buildings was £6,882,119, an increase of £569,566.

The following table shows the quantities of commodities produced during 1924-5:—Leather, 1,303,051 lb., decreases 116,472; ice, 13,235 tons, 1,000; candles, 10,283 cwt., 490; butter (factory only), 111,008 cwt., 7,846; jams and jellies, 7,415,832 lb., 1,505,796; bark ground, 4,823 tons, 2,170; brandy, 398,477 galls., 4,395; malt, 151,600 bushels, 65,589; boots and shoes, 462,524 pair, 55,995; biscuits, 3,260,359 lb., 157,546; tiles, 435,500 no., 277,500; bran, 29,666 tons, 558. Soap, 108,240 cwt., increases, 13,047; cheese, 33,423 cwt., 573; bacon and ham, 42,641 cwt., 3,067; lard, 171,762 lb., 6,580; sauce, 3,401,923 pints, 175,460; pickles, 536,350 pints, 321,426; flour, 127,848 tons, 14,412; pollard, 17,387 tons, 728; beer and stout, 5,533,982 galls., 377,661; fertilisers, chemical, 156,385 tons 32,069; bricks, 94,774,231 no., 5,404,725; sugar, refined, 30,179 tons, 299; spirits, distilled, 1,371,605 galls. 283,209.